

REMARKS

The Office Action of March 24, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed. Claims 1 - 19 and 24 - 31 are currently pending in the application. Once again, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the examiner's statement that claims 17 - 19 and 24 - 31 are allowed.

Claims 1 - 3 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,101,712 to Wright (hereinafter "the '712 reference"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As detailed in the previous reply, the connector disclosed in the '712 reference fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of claim 1, as required by 35 U.S.C. §102. In addition to the reasons detailed in the previous reply, the '712 reference fails to teach or suggest a displacement **beam** that is configured to pierce and hold the outer braid conductor of a coaxial cable with a residual force. While the '712 reference arguably discloses an element that pierces the outer braid of a cable, this particular element is not described or illustrated, or could it reasonably be interpreted as a beam. A common definition of beam is "any of various relatively **long** pieces of metal, wood, stone, etc., manufactured or shaped especially for use as rigid members or parts of structures or machines." The triangular element illustrated (but not numbered) in the '712 reference which pierces the cable clearly does not fall within this, or any other reasonable definition of beam. Furthermore, such a triangular element would not be an obvious alternative to a beam as it would not provide for holding the outer braid with a retention force, as recited in claim 1 and as described and defined in the specification, i.e., to provide a significant amount of plastic deformation of the conductive braid which at least contributes to the retention force.

As such, the '712 reference fails to teach or even suggest a connector having a coaxial cable displacement section having a displacement beam configured to pierce and hold an outer braid conductor of a coaxial cable with a retention force.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 and the claims dependent upon it are patentably distinct from the '712 reference. It is respectfully requested that the examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by the '712 reference. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As claims 7 and 8 are dependent upon independent claim 1, which is allowable for the reasons detailed above, these claims are also allowable. It is respectfully requested that the examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Claims 1 - 3, 6 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,701,001 to Verhoeven in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,101,712 to Wright. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For the reasons detailed above, the '712 reference fails to teach each and every element of independent claim 1. The '001 reference does not teach or suggest a beam that is configured to pierce and hold an outer braid conductor of a coaxial cable with a retention force. As such, these references, whether taken alone or combination do not render independent claim 1 or the claims dependent upon it obvious. It is respectfully requested that the examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

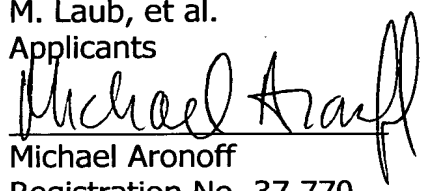
For the reasons set out above, it is respectfully requested that the examiner withdraw all of the pending rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all of the presently pending claims at the earliest possible time.

If the examiner has any questions regarding the presently pending claims which could be easily resolved by a telephone conference, the examiner is respectfully requested to contact the Applicants' representative at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

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